Superfast train between Howrah and Bhubaneshwar

1163. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa Government has requested the Railways for the introduction of a superfast train between Howrah and Bhubaneshwar during day time;

(b) whether the above proposal has been pending with the Central Government since long; and

(c) if so, whether the proposal is likely to be implemented during 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Due to availability of 10 pairs of direct trains between Howrah and Bhubaneshwar both during day time and overnight and paucity of coaches and locomotives, introduction of an additional day time train is not feasible.

Survey for rail line between Kakinada and Kotipalli

1164. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Central Railway conducted recently a survey between Kakinada-Kotipalli line via Kovvada-Annutapuram-Aretaktta-Vakada-Velangi Nisasapuraeeta - Chodavaram-Ramachandra Puram-Talla Palem-Grakshyramam-Venkatraya-Palem-Gangavaram; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the survey and the action taken and the amount sanctioned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cost of this 44 kms. long line is estimated at Rs. 22.53 crores and the rate of return by D.C.F. technique is 6.56 per cent. Further action will be considered on completion of examination of the Survey Report.

Expansion of Cochin and Calicut Airport

1165. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand Cochin and Calicut airports to handle the Air Buses at these airports;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide an air-strip at Shertalai in Alleppey District; and

(c) if so, when a decision is expected to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There is no proposal to expand Calicut airport. However, there is a proposal to expand Cochin airport for Airbus operations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Stopping of Ernakulam Trivandrum Vanchinad Express at Chengannur and Tiruvalla

1166. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have recently been received from Government of Kerala as well as Chamber of Commerce and passengers Association requesting for stoppage of Ernakulam Trivandrum Vanchinad Express at Chengannur and Tiruvalla; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Re-